

**BLM UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE**  
**RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET**  
*Uranium and Other Mineral Resources*

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The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Uncompahgre planning area. The Uncompahgre RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

### LAND OF VALUABLE RESOURCES

The BLM's dual mandate of multiple use and sustained yield means that BLM-administered lands are available for the exploration and development of mineral resources. The Mining Law of 1872 provides the legal framework for citizens to acquire mineral rights to a variety of hard rock minerals, including uranium and vanadium. Mining claimants are required to get BLM authorization before conducting any significant surface-disturbing activities. Miners are also required to get various permits from state and local governments in addition to putting in place financial guarantee bonds to insure completion of reclamation to meet various agency standards.



### MAJOR MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

Uranium and placer gold are the primary mineral resources found in the Uncompahgre planning area. The uranium-rich Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation outcrops in numerous locations associated with the Uravan Mineral Belt as it passes through western Montrose County. The UFO has over 20 exploration projects currently open, ranging from exploratory drilling to bulk sampling of historic underground mine workings.

Placer gold deposits occur in the San Miguel River where they are often worked by recreational panning and dredging groups on several active placer mining claims after the seasonal spring runoff has a chance to replenish the resource.



## OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES

Other mineral resources include the potential for leasable phosphate deposits associated with the Paradox Member of the Hermosa Group Formation in Paradox Valley. The Mineral Leasing Act guides land use planning, leasing, bonding, operations, and reclamation associated with all development of federal non-energy leasable mineral resources. In addition, sand and gravel deposits located throughout the planning area are primarily extracted for use as road base.

## URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management currently administers the Department's Uranium Leasing Program (ULP), managing 32 lease tracts containing approximately 25,000 acres, all located within the Uravan Mineral Belt in southwestern Colorado.

These public lands are withdrawn to the DOE for the management of uranium and vanadium resources. DOE has the jurisdiction for these resources, and the surface management of other resources like grazing and recreation is under the BLM jurisdiction. The DOE ULP is managed under the authority and in accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 760 in cooperation with the BLM and the State of Colorado.

**For more information on the Uranium Leasing Program, please visit the following website:**

<http://www.lm.doe.gov>



### *The BLM wants your input...*

- **How should mineral development, including pipelines and other infrastructure, be managed to minimize resource conflicts?**
- **Are there public lands that should be withdrawn from mineral entry because of conflicts with other public land uses?**
- **Should special conditions of approval be placed on mineral development? If so, what are they and where should they be applied?**
- **What are the visual considerations relating to management of mineral resources, and how should BLM's Visual Resource Management play a role?**
- **What are the potential social and economic effects associated with mineral development. How would planning decisions affect communities in southwest Colorado?**

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**UFO Planning Webpage:**  
[www.UFORMP.com](http://www.UFORMP.com)

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